

“Power’s not given to you. You have to take it.”  
-Beyoncé



TO EDUCATE, SUPPORT, AND REACH OUT TO WOMEN ON OUR CAMPUS IN THE  
CONTEXT OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

# The Center for Women's Studies

## Newsletter

### March 2019



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## March 2019 Calendar

**March 1-March 31**—(Collier Library Ground Floor) Herstory Exhibit.

**Tuesday, March 5th**—(Bibb Graves Room 306 at 3pm) Start Smart Workshop on Salary Negotiations for College Students by Dr. Lynne Rieff. Refreshments will be served..

**Thursday, March 7th**—(Collier Library Room 102 from 4-6pm) International and Elected Women’s Reception.

**Friday, March 8th**—International Women’s Day

**Wednesday, March 13th**—(GUC Loft at 3pm) Interfaith Panel on Women’s Spirituality moderated by Dr. Carl Gebhardt.

**March 25-March 29**—Spring Break.



### **The Center for Women’s Studies**

663 N. Wood Ave.

Florence, AL 35630

(256) 765 - 6198/4380

#### *Hours of Operation:*

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

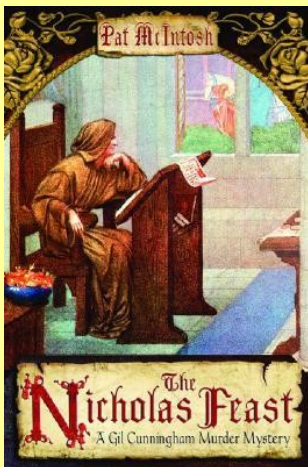
ekelley1@una.edu



# Women in History

## Pat McIntosh

Pat McIntosh was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland. Growing up, she always dreamt about being a writer. In fact, she began writing at the age of seven.. She was very inspired by the Scottish writer named Angus MacVicar who made her fall in love with writing. McIntosh attended college at the University of Glasgow. After graduating, she stayed there and worked for a while before moving to Scotland. She worked many different jobs such as a librarian, receptionist, geography teacher, paleontology teacher, and a tutor for the university. Unfortunately, none of these jobs gave her the thrill that writing gave her. In 1970, she published her first successful writings. It was a short story series called *The Year's Best Fantasy Stories*. The rest, as they say, was history. She became famous for being the author of the historical mysteries series of Gilbert and Alys Cunningham. The series is set up in medieval Scotland. The first book of the series was *The Harper's Quine* in 2004. Gilbert and Alys Cunningham mysteries now have 10 books in the series. McIntosh has also published several short stories, poems, and essays throughout her career as a writer.



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March is Women's History month. Bonnie Smith, one of the interns for the Women's Center, wrote this piece to discuss the importance of women's voices as we tell history.

## Women's History Month

By Bonnie Smith

In my experience as a student, most history classes I've been through have a similar lesson structure: what the men did and how the women helped. Usually, the latter is inserted in a cursory sub lesson toward the end of the chapter or even the unit. Oftentimes, I would sit in class wondering and waiting if any female name would surface. Who would be my role models as I grew into leadership roles and became full of ambition? Being a female figure in history is painted as a modern phenomena. Women simply came out of the woodwork when they were needed most, dropping the babies from their hips and rushing to the sides of men who were ready to give them guidance. This is a betrayal to students as well as any group that's left behind by history, such as immigrants, people of color, and women.

An excellent example is the explanation on the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. Most public school biology teachers acknowledge Watson and Crick as the sole researchers on a years long project. However, most of the research conducted was performed by and recorded in the notebook of Rosalind Franklin. She was not credited by the media or in textbooks for the hours she spent forging pathways for science in decades to come. This is a needle in the haystack of lost female history.

Women realized that they deserved to have their stories told and their accomplishments acknowledged. Our history month began as a week long celebration of the contributions females have made to national history around 1981. Seven years later, congress recognized Women's History Month as an educational necessity. Shedding light on the struggles our historic heroines have faced is not only a source of inspiration, it is an origin story of progress.

Having designated months to recognize the history of a certain group is often viewed as a consolation prize for that group or even a chore for those students going through the history classes themselves. Many even retort back "Why isn't there a men's history month?" Frankly, other than being tired, this dialogue promotes the idea that every other month isn't already about men's history- which it is. The intention of specific history months is not to exclude those not titled, but to focus on facts blurred by those who get to tell our history.

As history continues to be made and documented, it is my hope as a student and a woman that we not only rightfully insert women as a constant thread throughout history, but we do not let the lives we are currently living only be illustrated by the strides made by those who have privilege. Every morning that I go to a university to receive my degree in a male-dominated field, I think of those women who paved the way for the path I travel. Though I do not know as many of their names as I should, I thank them.



## THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES 2019

*The Vagina Monologues* is an episodic play by Eve Ensler. It premiered Off-Off Broadway in New York in 1996. Shortly following that it became a part of the annual programming at colleges and universities throughout the United States. It topples the taboos about the word vagina and “celebrates women’s sexuality and strength. Although the play is 23 years old, its poignant and raucous words still resonate today,” as proven by last night’s cast in the GUC Performance Center. Playing to its largest audience ever here at UNA, the cast members, whether as a solo or in groups, each proved to be a star in her own right.

There were a few monologues that especially loomed large in last night’s show: Ashley Massey’s emotional rendition of the monologue “Over It” gave us all chills as it verbalized what was obviously the audience’s feelings about rape and its perpetrators. Bonnie Smith’s lively and uproarious performance of “My Angry Vagina” had the audience almost in pain from laughter as did Jayne Jackson’s priceless interpretation of the monologue “Cunt.” But none of these accolades should detract from the entire cast’s impressive achievement. The show was clearly the product of innumerable hours of work and dedication.

Each year, at the close of the performance, two cast members are named as Vagina Warriors; they are chosen because, through their participation in the show, their work, and their dedication, they have embodied the true spirit of the play. This year’s Vagina Warriors awards went to Jayne Jackson and Evins Wall.

A percentage of the proceeds goes to V-Spot, a division of ({V-Day}), founded by Eve Ensler. That money will be used for women in prison, detention centers, and formerly incarcerated women.

The cast was comprised of students, faculty, staff, and alumni: Rosie McClendon, Bonnie Smith, Emily Kelley, Jayne Jackson, Mari Williams, Mazie Snider, Salina Fugate, Lynne Rieff, Karah Wilson, Katie Owens-Murphy, Alexandra Perez, Ashley Massey, and Evins Wall. They would like to thank the audience for coming and for laughing in all the right places.





March is Listening Awareness Month. Evins Wall, one of the interns for the Women's Center, wrote this piece to provide good listening tips for everyone.

## Listening is Important

By: Evins Wall

For those of you didn't already know, March is Listening Awareness month. The International Listening Association is an organization that is dedicated to learning about the impact listening has on human activity, and, turns out, it has a lot! This ground was formed in 1979 to listen to what people in over 19 countries had to say about education, business, government, medicine, human resources, training and development, media, and art. The list goes on and on and what they learned were things that had never been taken into consideration before. This goes to show how big a role just listening plays in the way the world works. For one, politics seems to be a major topic that lacks listening. It shouldn't be impossible to have a conversation with someone who doesn't have the exact same views as you. In fact, it's a learning experience. Listening allows you to take in what they have to say and decide for yourself. That's the beauty of it! Studies have also shown that being surrounded by people who listen can increase mental health. After all, listening is said to be the number one way to show you care for someone. Overall, listening can help yourself and other more than you may have ever realized, so I want to leave you with a few tips. Show the person that they have your full attention. Eye contact helps with this and so does engaging by asking questions. Body language is another helpful way to show the person you are listening. For example, leaning in to the person or nodding your head. Most importantly, know that the person may not always engage or open up immediately but, if you show you are interested, odds are they will feel comfortable and start to talk.

Listening  
=  
Learning



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# JOIN US FOR AN INTERFAITH PANEL ON WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

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Moderated by Dr. Carl Gebhardt

Wednesday, March 13th at 3pm  
GUC Loft



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**ODIE**

Office of Diversity and Institutional Equity



# **Resources Available at The Women's Center:**

- . Pride's Pantry of Personal Care Items**
- . Library**
- . Bottled Water**
- . Lactation Room**
- . Couches & Blankets**
- . Computers**
- . Free Printing**
- . Events**
- . Study Room**
- . Coffee & Conversation**



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SPONSORED BY



AAUW  
**STARTSMART**  
salary negotiation for students

# EMPOWER YOUR CAREER.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH**  
**306 BIBB GRAVES**  
**3PM - 5PM**

*Refreshments will be served*

*MADE POSSIBLE BY THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE*

## **Internally Speaking**

**Hi everyone. It's me again! I hope everyone's hanging in there. I know this time in the semester can be a stressful one with midterms and classes in full swing, but I have good news. Spring Break is at the end of this month and that means a whole week of no class and, hopefully, time to relax and do something you enjoy. With that being said, I want to remind everyone to stay safe over the break. I know it's easy to get caught up in trying to pack all the fun you can into one week, but it's not worth it if you're not taking care of yourself and staying safe. Spring break is known to be a big drinking holiday, so if you decide to take part in this, make sure you always have a designated driver when going out and use the buddy system. It works! Watch out for your friends and know when you or someone else has had enough to drink. If you're headed out of town, remember to keep your money in a secure spot and lock your car and doors at night. Always have a copy of identification and the details of where you are staying on you when going out. And last, but not least, hydrate and wear sunscreen if you will be out in the sun all day because, I can tell you first hand, sun poisoning is no joke. I know I sound like a mom but I want to make sure everyone has a fun and safe vacation because I want to see everyone's smiling faces back on campus in April.**

**So lets kill these midterms and enjoy some time off.**

**Here's to a fun and safe break,**

**Evins Wall**



## Coordinator's Notes

It certainly looks like spring out there, but we all are looking over our shoulders expecting winter to reestablish its severe self. The Bradford pears are white and the tulip trees are pink, both covered in blossoms. All the daffodils have bloomed, too, but it's all just about a month too early. Could it really be spring? Time will tell.

It really is March, however, and it's Women's History Month. We have several events planned this month beginning with The Herstory Project. It's an exhibit in the glass cases on the ground floor of Collier Library, comprised of pictures of men and women students, staff, and faculty holding pictures of their heroines. There's also a short biography of each heroine and the reason she was chosen. It will be up from March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 15.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> Dr. Lynne Rieff will teach the AAUW workshop StartSmart which is all about salary negotiation and not leaving money on the table when you are about to start a job or when you ask for a raise. It teaches you how to research what you're worth and then get it. It's on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in Bibb-Graves room 306. This is the first year for this event at UNA, and we are partnering with the campus associate group of AAUW.

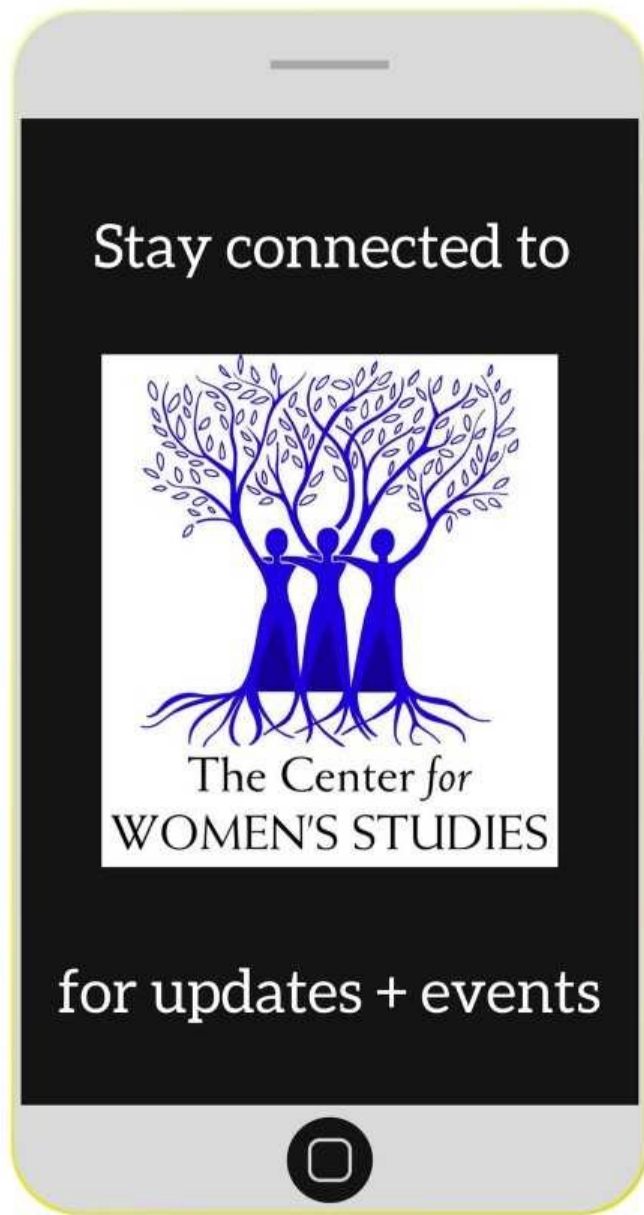
March 7<sup>th</sup> is the date for our reception to honor international and elected women. It's at 4:00 PM in Collier Library, room 120, and everyone's invited. It will also be a perfect time to view the Herstory exhibit. We are partnering on this reception with the League of Women Voters of the Shoals.

Finally, on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in the Loft we will have an Interfaith Panel on Women's Spirituality. This is also the first of its kind at UNA. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Carl Gebhardt and will have representatives from several of the religions and denominations in the Shoals. Refreshments will be served. We are partnering for this event with the Office of Diversity and Institutional Equity (O.D.I.E.).

That's the run down for the month. I hope you will be able to join us for several or all of these events.

Happy Spring (I hope!)

Emily



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